Protest against Government proposed scheme on Metro-Channel

144. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press news-item captioned "Metro channel may be a non starter" as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 22nd January, 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government have recently, received protests not to start the proposed scheme under the present terms;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what further efforts Government now propose to take to compete with the foreign TV networks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The suggestions have been noted.

(d) it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to bring about qualitative improvement in its programme content and format so as to sustain the interest of its viewers.

Separate sports channel on Doordarshan

145. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to have a separate Sports Channel on Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) While there are no immediate plans for starting an exclusive sports channel, Doordarshan have introduced from 15.2.1993 a one hour chunk for sports programmes on the metro channel from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m (Monday to Friday).

Central Assistance to sound and light show at Shamwerwada, Pune

146. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of Central assistance given/proposed to be given by Government for the Sound and Light show at Shamwerwada, Pune; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) A sound and light programme at Pune is likely to be organised by the Song and Drama Division of the Ministry during the year 1993 from out of its own budget with such facilities as may be provided by the state/local authorities. The expenditure on the programme will depend upon the number of days for which such shows are mounted.

Regulations of cable/satellite TV operators on the pattern of Maharashtra

147. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce cable TV and satellite TV regulations in the country, especially in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat and the North East, on the pattern of Maharashtra Government's recent Ordinance in the matter;